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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY Czechoslovakia

REPORT

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25 YEAR RE-REVIEW

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1. Czechoslovak film production was centered in the branch plants of the German Third Reich's two plants, Agfa laboratories in Prague and the Neobrom firm in Brno, and in two private Czechoslovak firms, the AKO firm in Nestemice, near Usti nad Labem (later in Cesky Brod N 50-04, E 14-517), and the Fotochema firm in Hradce Kralove.
2. The AKO firm was established by A. KOMAREK before World War II. Before the German occupation of the Czechoslovak border areas, the firm was moved to Cesky Brod, into the unoccupied buildings of a sugar plant. KOMAREK lacked financial means after the move, so in either 1939 or 1940 the plant was taken over by the United Chemical Works in Prague II. The name was changed to United Chemical Works, AKO Plant, Cesky Brod; it was expanded and properly equipped. Several employees were sent to Wolfen, Germany, where they were specially trained at the Agfa plant.
3. Fotochema in Hradec Kralove was taken over by the United Chemical Works after World War II. The Agfa laboratories in Prague and the Neobrom firm, as confiscated property, were also made a part of the United Chemical Works just after the termination of hostilities in 1945. With these confiscations, all photographic production belonged to the United Chemical Works and was under the Czechoslovak Chemical Works in Prague. After the reorganization of the chemical industry and breaking-up of the United Chemical Works, Fotochema was set up as an independent national enterprise for photographic material production on 1 January 1950. The main plant was in Hradec Kralove with branch installations in Cesky Brod, Agfa in Prague, and Neobrom in Brno. This new national enterprise fell directly under the administration of the Ministry of Chemical Industry in Prague II.

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- 2 -

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4. The quality of film and photo products was not good; good quality products had to be imported. Among these were X-ray film, photo gelatin, and photo paper.
5. Fotochema, National Enterprise, produced roll film, miniature film, sheet film, reproduction film, photographic papers, document and recording paper, photographic plates, reproduction plates, lantern plates, developers, replenishers, acid fixation salts, hydroquinine, and Azovelon (sensitized paper for the reproduction of documents, plans, etc.).

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7. Fotochema's Research Institute of Photo-Chemistry was located in Prague-Troja, Nad Kazankou 36.

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